

other individual associated with a participant may be imputed to the participant when the conduct occurred in connection with the individual's performance of duties for or on behalf of the participant, or with the participant's knowledge, approval, or acquiescence. The participant's acceptance of the benefits derived from the conduct shall be evidence of such knowledge, approval, or acquiescence.

(2) *Conduct imputed to individuals associated with participant.* The fraudulent, criminal, or other seriously improper conduct of a participant may be imputed to any officer, director, shareholder, partner, employee, or other individual associated with the participant who participated in, knew of, or had reason to know of the participant's conduct.

(3) *Conduct of one participant imputed to other participants in a joint venture.* The fraudulent, criminal, or other seriously improper conduct of one participant in a joint venture, grant pursuant to a joint application, or similar arrangement may be imputed to other participants if the conduct occurred for or on behalf of the joint venture, grant pursuant to a joint application, or similar arrangement may be imputed to other participants if the conduct occurred for or on behalf of the joint venture, grant pursuant to a joint application, or similar arrangement or with the knowledge, approval, or acquiescence of these participants. Acceptance of the benefits derived from the conduct shall be evidence of such knowledge, approval, or acquiescence.

§ 32.335 Appeal.

(a) The debarment determination under § 32.314 shall be final. However, any party to the action may request the Director, Office of Grants and Debarment (OGD Director), to review the findings of the Debarring Official by filing a request with the OGD Director within 30 calendar days of the party's receipt of the debarment determination, or its reconsideration. The request must be in writing and set forth the specific reasons why relief should be granted.

(b) A review under this section shall be at the discretion of the OGD Director. If a review is granted, the debar-

ring official may stay the effective date of a debarment order pending resolution of the appeal. If a debarment is stayed, the stay shall be automatically lifted if the OGD Director affirms the debarment.

(c) The review shall be based solely upon the record. The OGD Director may set aside a determination only if it is found to be arbitrary, capricious, and abuse of discretion, or based upon a clear error of law.

(d) The OGD Director's subsequent determination shall be in writing and mailed to all parties.

(e) A determination under § 32.314 or a review under this section shall not be subject to a dispute or a bid protest under parts 30, 31 or 33 of this subchapter.

[53 FR 19197, May 26, 1988, as amended at 59 FR 50693, Oct. 5, 1994; 62 FR 47149, Sept. 8, 1997]

Subpart D—Suspension

§ 32.400 General.

(a) The suspending official may suspend a person for any of the causes in § 32.405 using procedures established in §§ 32.410 through 32.413.

(b) Suspension is a serious action to be imposed only when:

(1) There exists adequate evidence of one or more of the causes set out in § 32.405, and

(2) Immediate action is necessary to protect the public interest.

(c) In assessing the adequacy of the evidence, the agency should consider how much information is available, how credible it is given the circumstances, whether or not important allegations are corroborated, and what inferences can reasonably be drawn as a result. This assessment should include an examination of basic documents such as grants, cooperative agreements, loan authorizations, and contracts.

§ 32.405 Causes for suspension.

(a) Suspension may be imposed in accordance with the provisions of §§ 32.400 through 32.413 upon adequate evidence:

(1) To suspect the commission of an offense listed in § 32.305(a); or

(2) That a cause for debarment under § 32.305 may exist.